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## En busca de una misiología integral

Giordano Quintana, C.

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**Towards an Integral Missiology:  
The relationship of non-proselytistic Iberoamerican development projects to the emergence of  
churches in Muslim contexts**

Original title: En busca de una misiología integral:

Las relaciones entre proyectos de desarrollo iberoamericanos no proselitistas en tierras musulmanas y las iglesias pioneras vinculadas a ellos.

Doctoral thesis presented at Free University of Amsterdam (April 2020)

## **Summary**

This thesis denotes a search of an integral (holistic) and Ibero-American missiology of the Christian mission to Islam. For such, it analyzes the relationship of non proselytistic development projects carried out by Ibero-American evangelical missionaries in Muslim contexts and the churches that emerge out of their work. Most Latin American evangelical mission follow a proselytizing mode that uses projects of various kinds as a hook for evangelism and as a cover for visas. In contrast, this research focuses on those organizations and missionaries who (1) have chosen Integral Mission as their missiological model, (2) prioritize national culture and ways of doing, and (3) do not avoid respectful and clear evangelization. The author has studied 12 projects, 10 churches and 24 missionaries, experts and pastors, in North Africa, Senegal and Uzbekistan.

Considering the relationship between projects and churches, the author identifies six major areas of the Muslim world, as well as five models of approach that determine both the type of project and the kind of church that emerges. He goes deeper into the analysis of perceptions of proselytism and evangelization, as well as in different ideologies and theologies that underlie the practice of development. Among the many direct, indirect, near and distant relationships, this research reveals the importance that the relationship with the community entails for both project and church. The author concludes with a proposal for a change of approach to both the development model and the establishment of churches in Muslim contexts. In order to de-link the project from Western ideology and the idea of progress, he proposes a *Development-Salaam theology* articulated in ten aspects, adopting instead a language of belief, fear of God and a relational approach, all of this focused on holistic wellness (*salaam*). Additionally, this research illuminates how such changes may build upon an indigenous, honorable, and believable ecclesial identity, that promotes an all-encompassing *salaam*. Missionary identity, on the other hand, must become integrated, mono-vocational, transparent and based on actual work or occupation. This identity takes the form of guests, ambassadors of *Isa al-Masih* (Jesus the Messiah) who advocate for *development-salaam*; a clearly religious and honorable identity, just the opposite of a proselytistic camouflage approach.

This thesis contributes to a respectful and open approach between followers of Islam and Christianity, in times characterized by mutual distrust and clash of civilizations.

christian@losgiordano.org